

IN SENATE
OF
THE UNITED STATES,

DECEMBER 24, 1817.

The Committee of Claims to whom has been referred the petition
of Silas Willard,

REPORT:

That the petitioner stands bound in a recognizance to the United States, in the penal sum of \$4000, for the appearance of John M. Willard, in the circuit court of Vermont, who stands charged with having violated the provisions of the act of July 6, 1812. The grand jury indicted John M. Willard on two counts, who subsequently left the United States, and the recognizance became forfeited. Process has not yet been served on the petitioner to compel payment of his bond. He avers in his petition, he is wholly unable to pay it, and on being pressed, must either go to jail or fly his country. Depositions of a number of highly respectable citizens accompany the petition, going to establish the uprightness of the petitioner's character, and his inability to pay the amount of the recognizance. The bail appears to the committee to be excessive as the court could not inflict a higher fine than \$500, nor a term of imprisonment of more than six months. In this view of the case as it is alledged, the court have no equitable powers to mitigate the penalty, it appears to the committee the interposition of Congress is necessary; they therefore respectfully report a bill.

MESSAGE

IN SENATE

THE UNITED STATES

RECEIVED AT 1877

The Committee of Claims to whom has been referred a petition of John M. Willard

REPORT

That the petition stands bound as a recognition to the United States of the general sum of \$2,000 for the appearance of John M. Willard in the circuit court of Vermont, who stands charged with having violated the provisions of the act of July 18, 1832. The grand jury indicted John M. Willard on two counts, who subsequently fled from the United States, and the recognizance became forfeited. The court has not yet been served on the petitioner for compel payment of his bond. He avers in his petition that he is wholly unable to pay it, and being pressed must either go to jail or fly his country. Depositions of a number of highly respectable citizens accompany the petition, going to establish the uprightness of the petitioner's character, and his inability to pay the amount of the recognizance. The bill appends to the petition a statement as to the excessive nature of the fine, and the fact that, now a term of imprisonment is in effect, and the court has no money. In this view of the case as it is stated, the committee feel that the power to mitigate the penalty is accorded to the committee, the intervention of Congress is necessary, and therefore respectfully report a bill.